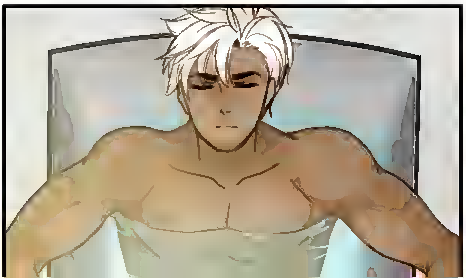
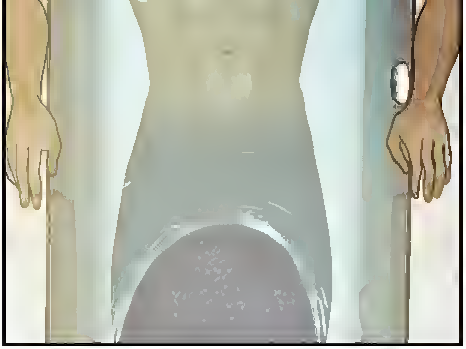
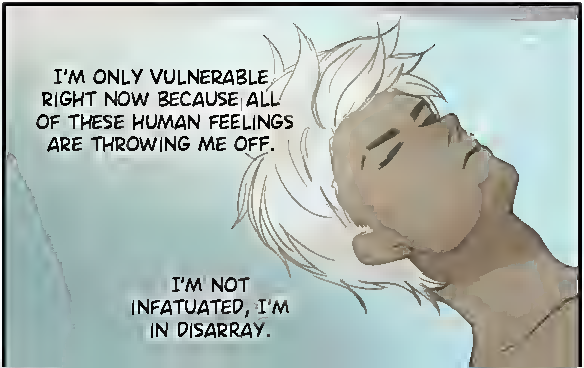
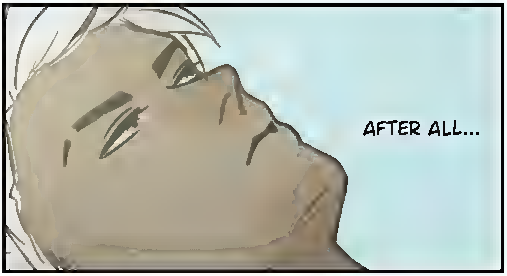


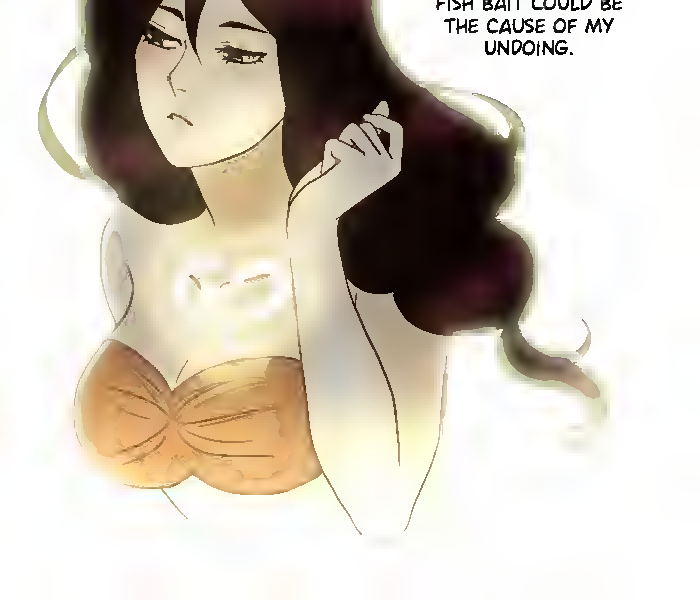


IT'S A SIDE EFFECT.

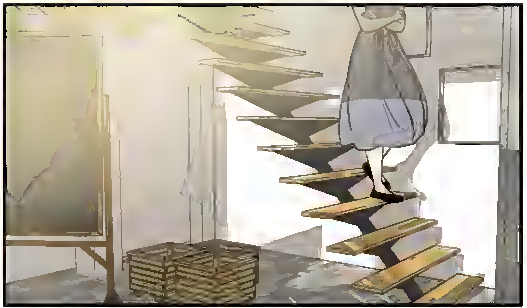
IT HAS TO BE A SIDE EFFECT OF BEING PARTIALLY HUMAN, RIGHT?

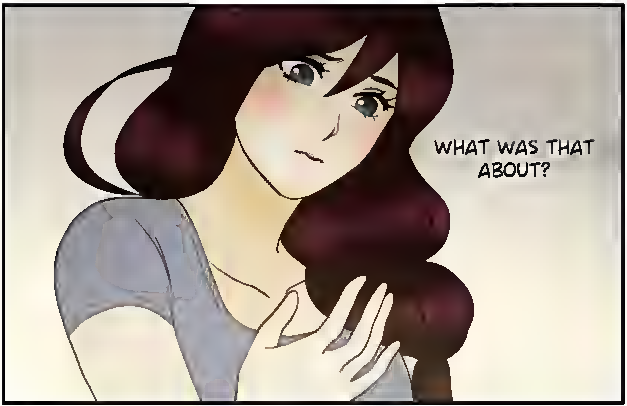



AFTER ALL...

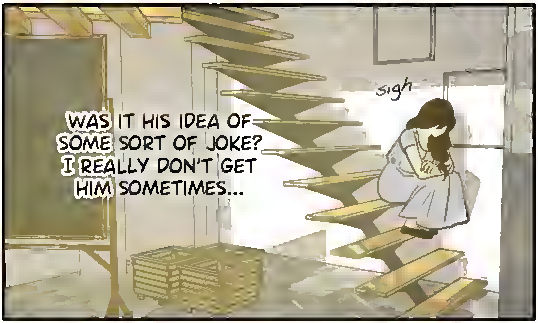

FISH BAIT COULD BE
THE CAUSE OF MY
UNDOING.

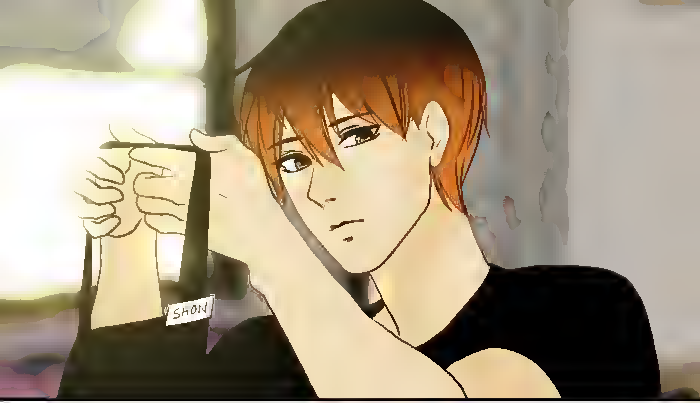
EPISODE 32: WHAT'S LEAST EXPECTED



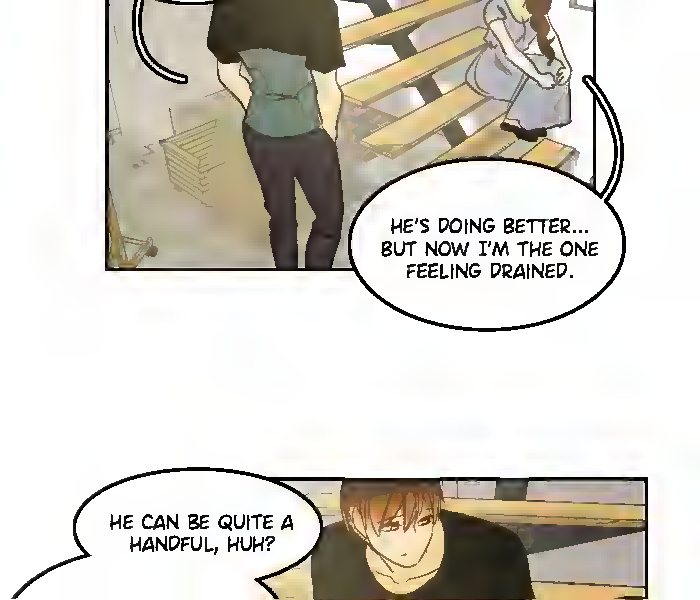

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

THAT WAS SO...
UNLIKE HIM.


WAS IT HIS IDEA OF SOME SORT OF JOKE? I REALLY DON'T GET HIM SOMETIMES...
sigh


SHON

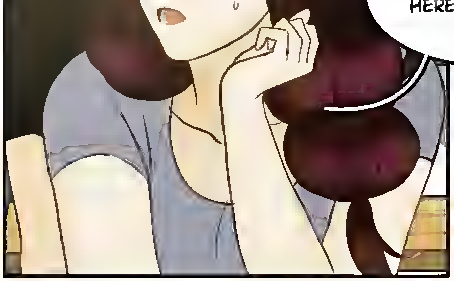
HEY, HOW'S IAN?


HE'S DOING BETTER... BUT NOW I'M THE ONE FEELING DRAINED.
HE CAN BE QUITE A HANDFUL, HUH?

BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, IT'S DEFINITELY BEEN MORE LIVELY WITH HIM AROUND.
YEAH, NO KIDDING.
IT'S LIKE I'M BACK IN MY BABYSITTING DAYS.
Ahh good times.

Pfft-
HAHA! HEY, DON'T LET IAN HEAR YOU SAY THAT, HE'LL THROW A TANTRUM!

OH WAIT- SHON, DID YOU HAVE TO GO TO YOUR PART TIME TODAY?
DID I KEEP YOU

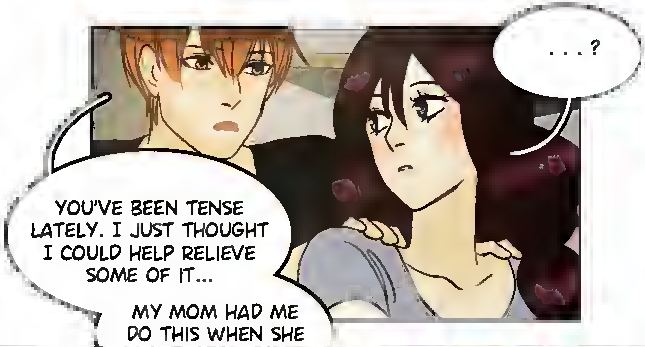

HERE TOO LONG?

NOPE, I WORK AT MY PART TIME TOMORROW.

AH, RIGHT.
I FORGOT...

MY MEMORY
ISN'T GETTING WORSE,
IS IT...? MAYBE I'M
JUST OVERTHINKING.

massage


. . . ?
YOU'VE BEEN TENSE LATELY. I JUST THOUGHT I COULD HELP RELIEVE SOME OF IT...
MY MOM HAD ME DO THIS WHEN SHE

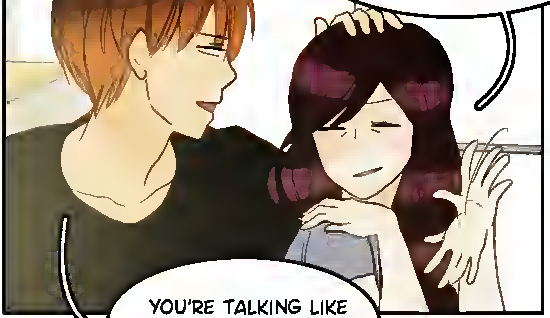
WAS PREGNANT.

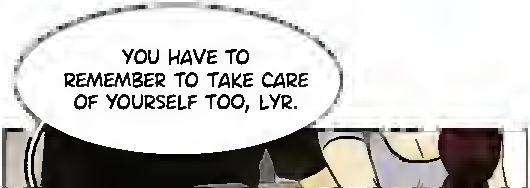
SHON, I'M NOT PREGNANT.

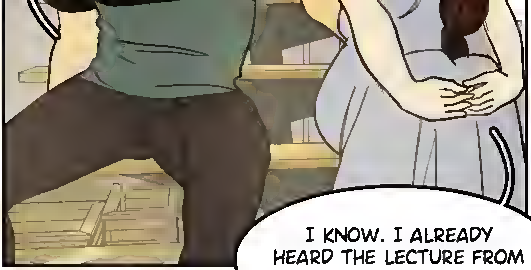
Y-YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

For stress relief!

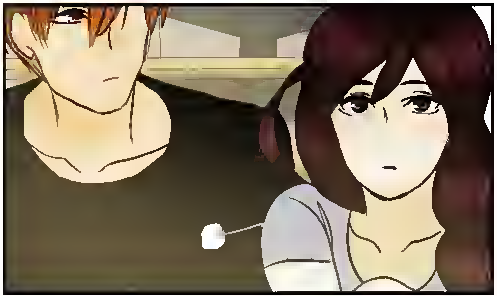
AH, DON'T FUSS OVER ME. A HOT CUP OF HERBAL TEA USUALLY DOES THE TRICK IF I WANT TO LOOSEN THE KNOTS IN MY BACK.

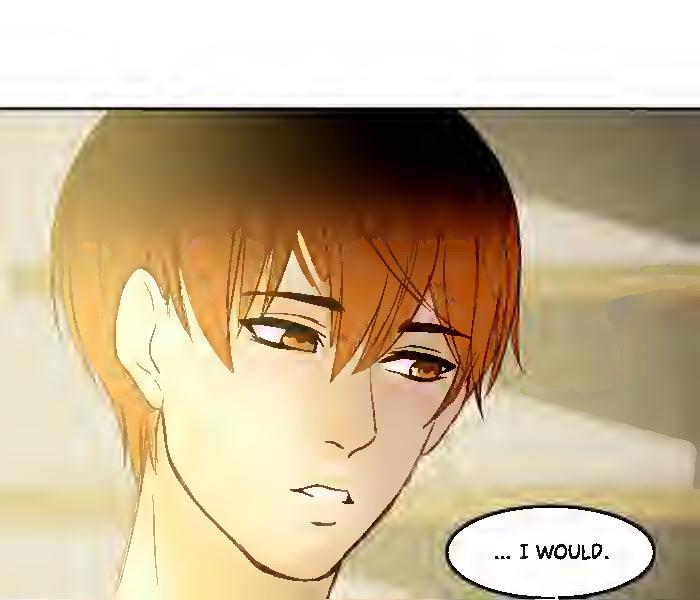

YOU'RE TALKING LIKE YOU'RE AN OLD WOMAN ALREADY...

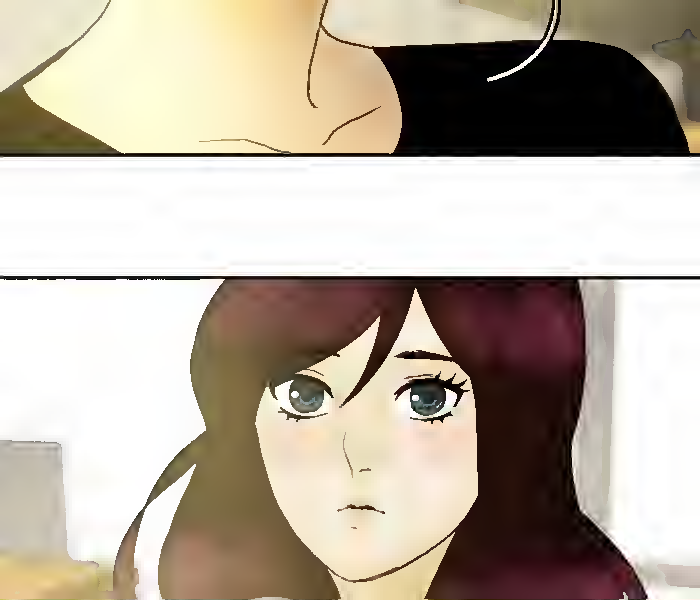

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF TOO, LYR.

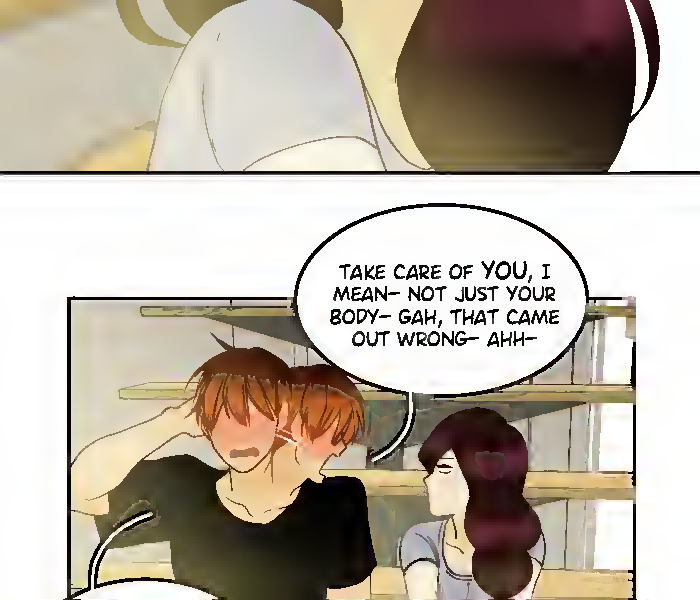

I KNOW. I ALREADY HEARD THE LECTURE FROM GRANNY TODAY.

BESIDES, IF I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF MY OWN BODY, WHO ELSE WILL?

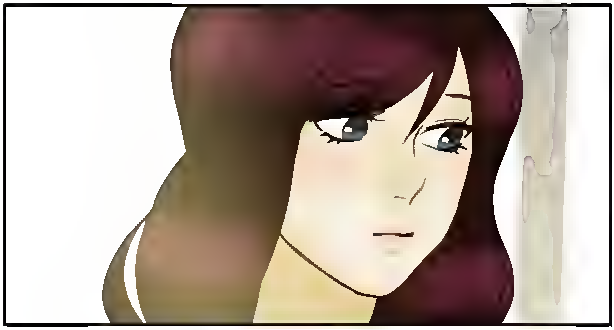



... I WOULD.



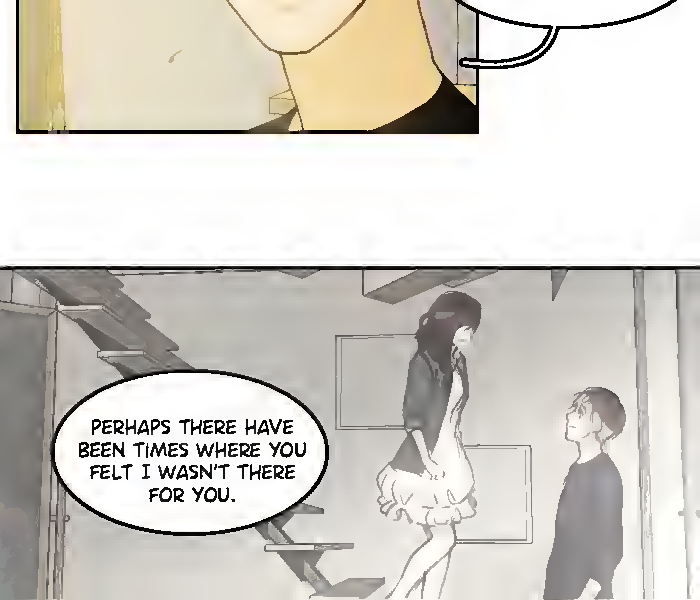

TAKE CARE OF YOU, I MEAN- NOT JUST YOUR BODY- GAH, THAT CAME OUT WRONG- AHH-

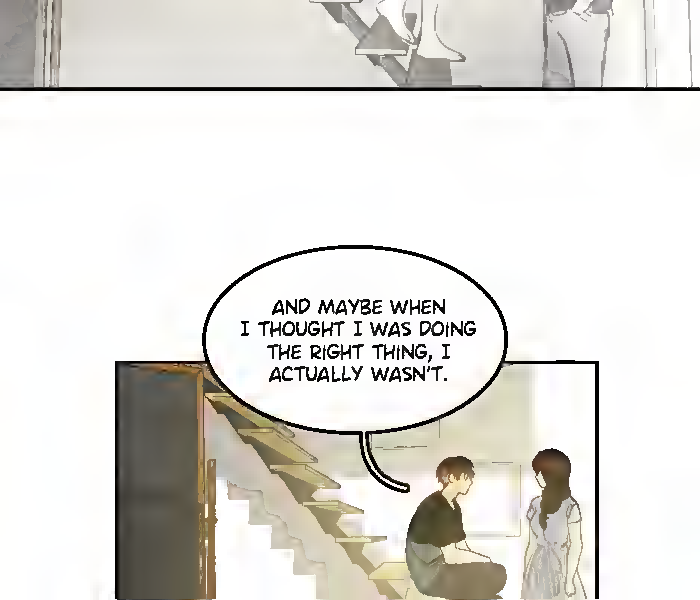
BUT YEAH, YOU KNOW– THAT.

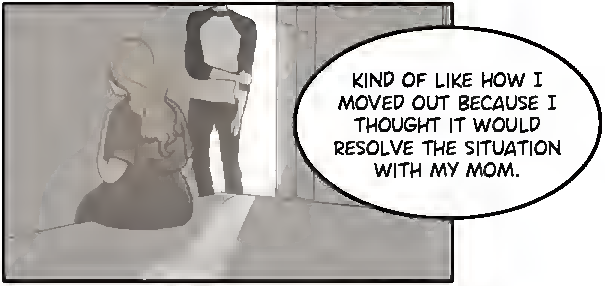


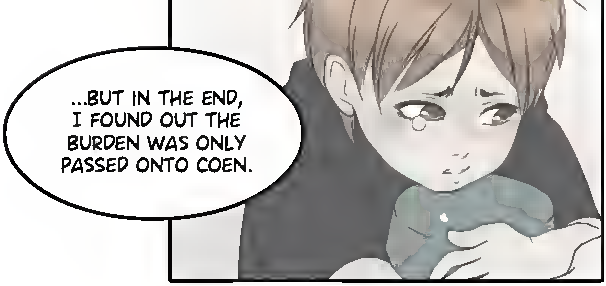
RELAX, I'M NOT SOME KID YOU HAVE TO WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL ANYMORE.
I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF LOOKING AFTER MYSELF.

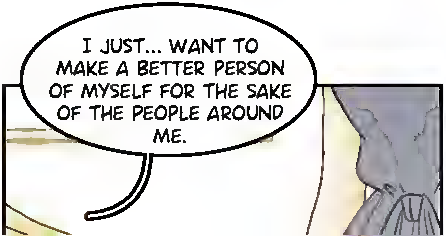
I'M AWARE. AND I'M NOT SAYING YOU AREN'T CAPABLE.
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

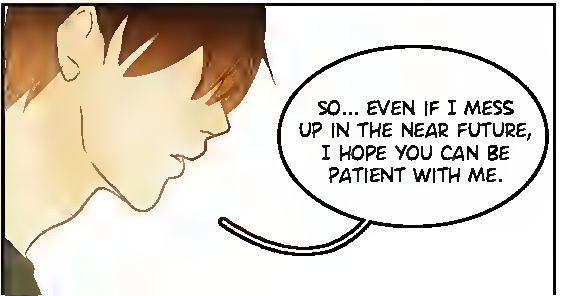

PERHAPS THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHERE YOU FELT I WASN'T THERE FOR YOU.


AND MAYBE WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING, I ACTUALLY WASN'T.

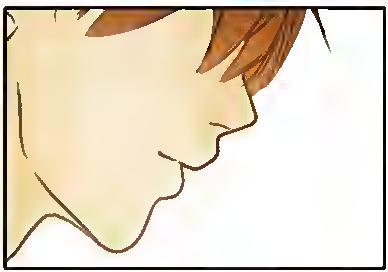

KIND OF LIKE HOW I MOVED OUT BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD RESOLVE THE SITUATION WITH MY MOM.

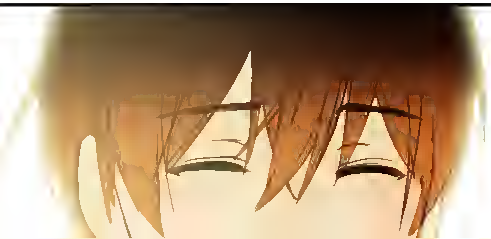

...BUT IN THE END, I FOUND OUT THE BURDEN WAS ONLY PASSED ONTO COEN.


I JUST... WANT TO MAKE A BETTER PERSON OF MYSELF FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.


SO... EVEN IF I MESS UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I HOPE YOU CAN BE PATIENT WITH ME.

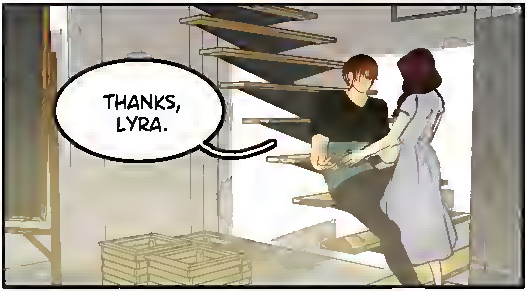
AND THAT YOU DON'T THINK ANY LESS OF ME... BUT I REALLY AM GOING TO TRY TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

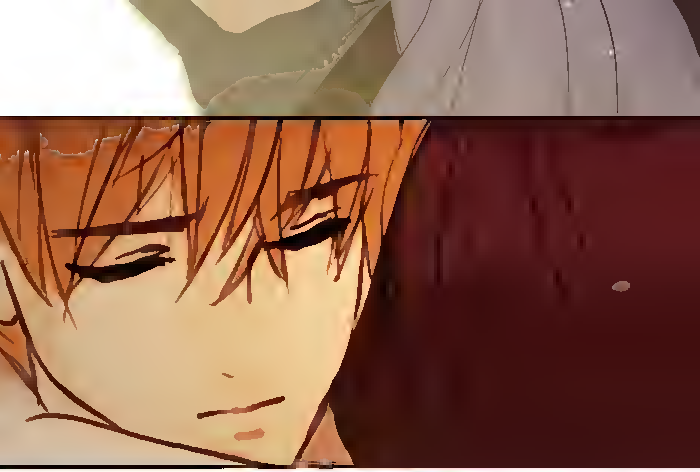




SORRY, LYR. I'M NOT MAKING MUCH SENSE, AM I?
BUT IF YOU COULD... PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND?

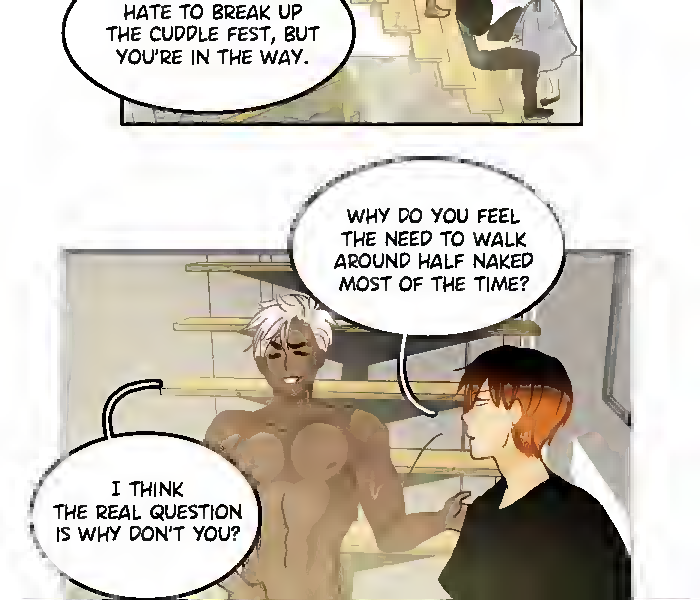
... OF COURSE.


THANKS, LYRA.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SCARED
OF LOSING YOU THE MOST.

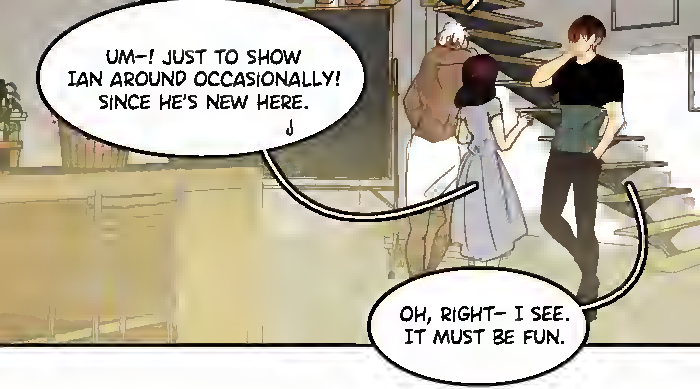
YO.

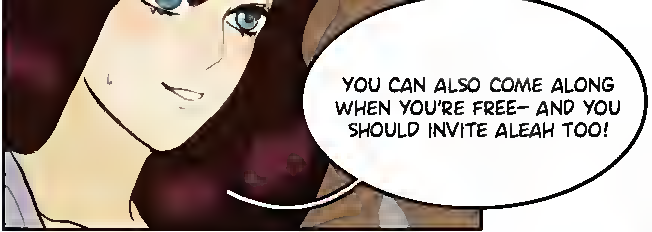

HATE TO BREAK UP THE CUDDLE FEST, BUT YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
WHY DO YOU FEEL THE NEED TO WALK AROUND HALF NAKED MOST OF THE TIME?
I THINK THE REAL QUESTION IS WHY DON'T YOU?

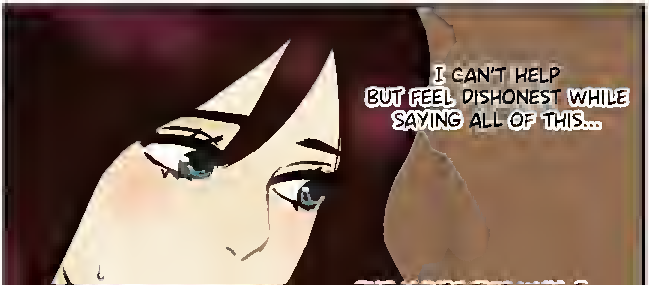
I DUNNO, IAN. MAYBE BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO CATCH A COLD OR A FEVER.
...

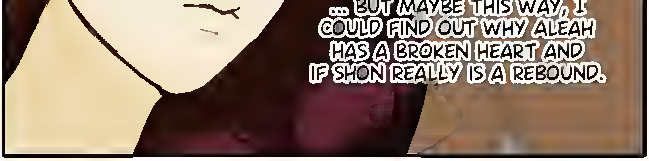
WELL, IT'S NOT MY FAULT FISH BAIT MAKES ME WEAR SO LITTLE WHEN WE GO OUT~
WHO'S MAKING YOU DO WHAT NOW?

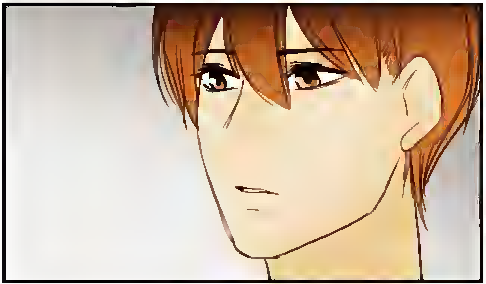
... YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN GOING OUT OFTEN?
ALL THE TIME~

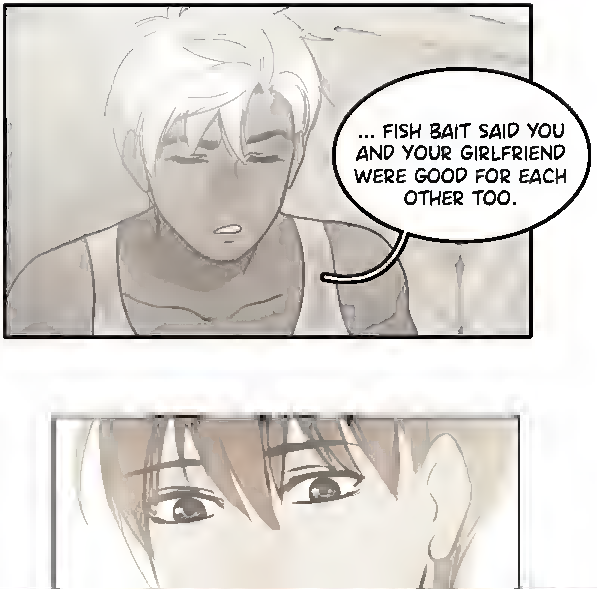

UM-! JUST TO SHOW IAN AROUND OCCASIONALLY! SINCE HE'S NEW HERE. ♩
OH, RIGHT- I SEE. IT MUST BE FUN.

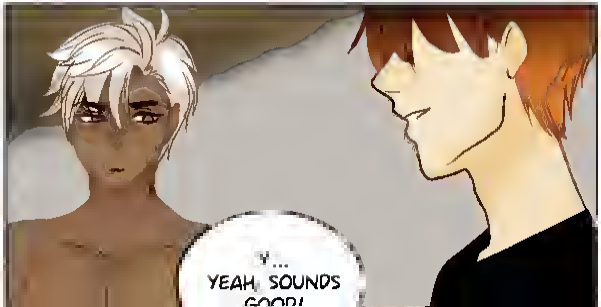

YOU CAN ALSO COME ALONG WHEN YOU'RE FREE- AND YOU SHOULD INVITE ALEAH TOO!

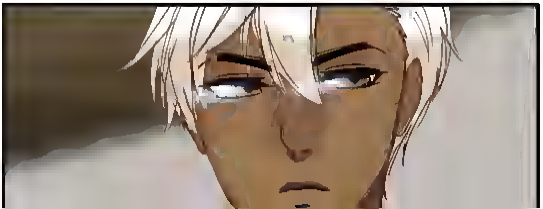

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL DISHONEST WHILE SAYING ALL OF THIS...

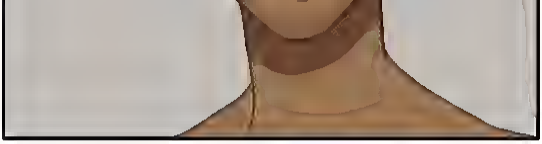

... BUT MAYBE THIS WAY, I COULD FIND OUT WHY ALEAH HAS A BROKEN HEART AND IF SHON REALLY IS A REBOUND.

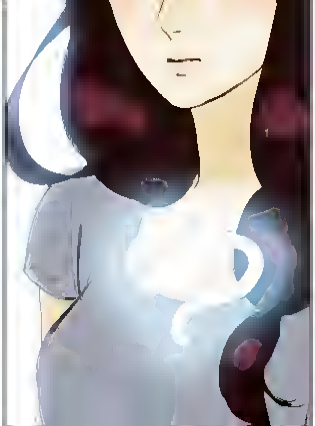



... FISH BAIT SAID YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND WERE GOOD FOR EACH OTHER TOO.

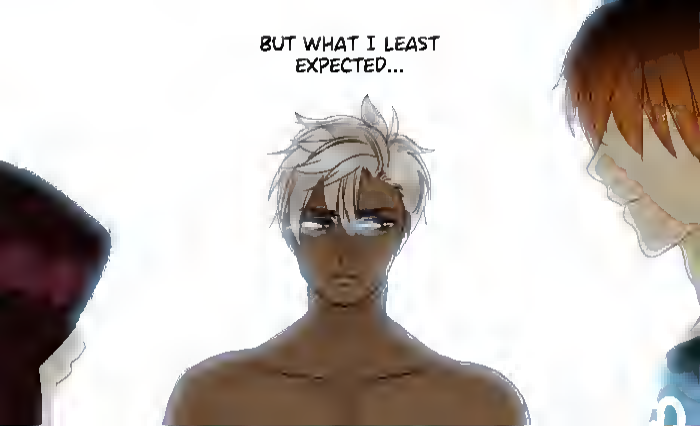

Y...
YEAH, SOUNDS
GOOD!







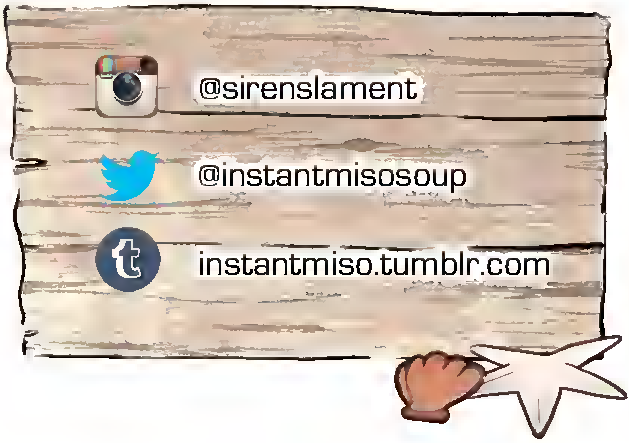
BOTH OF THEIR HEARTS
WERE GLOWING BLUE IN
UNISON.


BUT WHAT I LEAST
EXPECTED...

WAS THE HEAVY FEELING
IN MY OWN CHEST.

Siren's Lament

instantmisa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@instantmisosoup
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